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ABSTRACT

This book presents a comprehensive and up-to-date account of the development of modern Chinese from the late 19th century up to the 1990s, concentrating on three major aspects: modern spoken Chinese, modern written Chinese, and the modern Chinese writing system. It describes and analyzes in detail, from historical and sociolinguistic perspectives, the establishment and promotion of modern spoken Chinese and modern written Chinese and the reform of the Chinese script. Through an integrated discussion of these areas of the language, the book highlights the close interrelationships between them and reveals the interaction of linguistic, historical, and social factors in the development of modern Chinese. The book is divided into three parts and 12 chapters. Part one, modern spoken Chinese, covers its establishment and promotion, norms and variations, and standards and dialects. Part two, covering modern written Chinese, deals with written Chinese's development and promotion, norms and variation, and dialect writing. Part three discusses the modern Chinese writing system, including its basic features, the simplification of the traditional writing system, the phonetization of Chinese, and the use and reform of the writing system. Extensive references and notes are included, as is an index. Tables appear throughout the text. (KFT)

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